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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/805,306

Examiner

Carlos A. Martinez

Applicant(s)

KOMIYA ET AL.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to papers filed through 06/12/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 5-11.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art does not teach an image forming apparatus comprising: light emission means for emitting a light beam; scanning control means for controlling scanning of the light beam emitted by the light emission means; first light emission control means for controlling a light emission timing of the light emission means on the basis of a reference clock by a timing prepared in advance; bias current control means for controlling whether to start or stop supplying of a bias current to the light emission means at a bias current control timing prepared in advance, to control the light emission timing of the light emission means; second light emission control means for controlling the light emission timing of the light emission means in correspondence with image data of one line in a main scanning direction on the basis of a generation timing of a horizontal sync signal corresponding to the emission of the light beam under control of the first light emission control means; and image forming means for forming an image on the basis of the light beam scanned under control of the scanning control means in correspondence with the emission of the light beam under control of the second light emission control means; wherein: the image forming means selects one of a first process speed and a second process speed in a sub-scanning direction when a latent image formed in correspondence with scanning of the light beam is to be transferred to a predetermined medium; when the first process speed is selected, the bias current control means sets a first bias current on timing and a first bias current off timing, counts an image clock corresponding to the reference clock, detects the first bias current on timing to start supplying of the bias current to the light emission means, and detects the first bias off timing to stop supplying of the bias current to the light emission means, and when the second process

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speed is selected, the bias current control means sets a second bias current on timing and a second bias current off timing, counts the image clock corresponding to the reference clock, and detects the second bias current on timing to start supplying of the bias current to the light emission means, and detects the second bias off timing to stop supplying of the bias current to the light emission means; and when the first process speed is selected, the first light emission control means sets a first auto power on timing and a first auto power off timing, counts the image clock corresponding to the reference clock to detect the first auto power on timing and the first auto power off timing, and forcibly causes the light emission means to emit light at a first period to generate the horizontal sync signal at the first period, and when the second process speed is selected, the first light emission control means sets a second auto power on timing and a second auto power off timing, counts the image clock corresponding to the reference clock to detect the second auto power on timing and the first auto power off timing, and forcibly causes the light emission means to emit light at a second period to generate the horizontal sync signal at the second period; and the first bias current off timing and the first auto power on timing are coincident with each other, and the second bias current off timing and the second auto power on timing are coincident with each other.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Drawings

2. The replacement drawing sheets and annotated sheets were received on 06/12/2006. It is noted that these drawings are acceptable.

Specification

3. The specification corrections were received on 06/12/2006. It is noted that these corrections to the specification are acceptable.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos A. Martinez whose telephone number is (571) 272-8349. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm (M-F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, STEPHEN D. MEIER can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CAM
06/21/2006


HAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER